

WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 17, 1857.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

A. M. Jackson, of Mississippi, to be secretary of State of the Territory of New Mexico, in the place of William W. H. Davis, resigned.

William R. Calhoun, of South Carolina, to be secretary of legation at Paris, in place of O. Jennings Wise, of Virginia, resigned.

After a sojourn of several weeks at the White Sulphur Springs of Virginia, Senator Slidell, of Louisiana, returned to this city yesterday.

BALTIMORE AS SHE IS AND MAY BE.

States have their infected districts; cities are afflicted with disreputable localities which appear to be beyond the reach of redemption; and the most obscure villages not unfrequently have "spots" which are carefully shunned by virtuous, orderly people. There is one city in the Union—and it is with extreme pain and deep mortification that we record the humiliating fact—that is rapidly approaching that disreputable notoriety which must end, if a remedy is not immediately applied, in giving it a most unenviable relative position to the whole country. Who, a few short years ago, would have believed that the once proud, prosperous city of Baltimore, with a world-wide reputation for its wealth, refinement, and hospitality, could have fallen into such a condition that the lives and property of her citizens were completely at the mercy of organized bands of desperate, murdering ruffians? Such is the revolting state of affairs in the fifth commercial city of the Union, or else the daily local chronicles of the Baltimore papers—papers of all political shades and affluities—are sheer fabrications, mere coinages of the brain.

But there is evidence—daily, hourly, crushing evidence—that, as a general rule, the journalists of Baltimore have discharged their duties with great boldness and fidelity, and that, so far from exaggerating the alarming condition of their local affairs, much has been softened, and much altogether suppressed, from motives which will naturally suggest themselves to the reader. It is a matter of notoriety that a decided majority of the citizens of Baltimore are democrats; and yet that majority cannot be heard and felt through the ballot-box in consequence of the murderous assaults or intimidations of an armed, organized, and law-defying minority; and such are now the periodical scenes of violence at the polls, that after an election has been held in the city people at a distance look, not for the returns of the judges, but the returns of the hospitals—the lists of the killed and wounded democrats. The immunity which has followed these frightful outrages has engendered a spirit of lawlessness in the breasts of the offending parties which manifests itself with nearly as fatal effects on other days besides election days. Sunday fights, and week-day fights—fights in the highways and by-ways, in the suburbs and in the heart of the city—attacks on private and public houses—murders by night and by day—general melées in which hundreds are engaged with rifles, revolvers, and bowie knives—now form the great staple of the local items of a Baltimore journal. A reference to a file of the Baltimore Sun, American, or Republican, for the last two or three years, will show that we have not over-stated the case. So continual has been this fearful state of lawlessness, that we have long since refrained from even alluding to these outrages as a matter of news.

These statements may be denied; but it cannot be denied that the whole business of Baltimore shows, to use a mercantile expression, a "downward tendency." Real estate in that city is much lower now than it has been for years, and prices are still declining. The business of the wholesale and retail dealers has fallen off to such a degree as to excite both inquiry and alarm. The large hotels of Baltimore, once regarded, and truly regarded, as very lucrative investments, now scarcely pay expenses. The thousands and thousands of northern and southern travellers who formerly "staid over" for a night or a day in Baltimore, with comparatively few exceptions, now hurry through the city for a more desirable and secure resting place. Nor is this all. So widely known is Baltimore for the infamous, murderous, and anti-American character of its outrages, and so deep-rooted is the general feeling of indignation for the authors and abettors of those outrages, that we can mention whole communities in Virginia, Tennessee, and other States in which pledges have been exacted by the people of the store-keepers not to purchase any goods, no matter how trifling the amount, in the city of Baltimore; and these pledges we have good reason to believe have been religiously kept.

We do not mean to say by this that all the merchants of Baltimore are responsible for the outrages which have done so much to injure the reputation and business of their city, but we do mean to say that many, very many, of their number have aided, and still aid, to keep in murderous existence armed and organized bands of political bullies, by their counsel, countenance, and liberal pecuniary contributions, and that unless this aid is promptly and forever withheld, and unless they are hereafter found on the side of law and order, instead of on the side of men whose deeds of violence have filled the country with disgust and indignation, still further and more injurious consequences to the business, growth, and prosperity of Baltimore may be safely regarded as inevitable.

It is not too late for Baltimore to recover from the blight under which she is now suffering—to take her old, proud stand among her sister cities of the Union—to avail herself of the almost countless advantages which her favorable geographical position and the enterprise and liberality of her citizens have placed within her grasp—and to stifle that spirit which can only have a spasmodic existence in ruin, carnage, and blood.

It now rests with the citizens of Baltimore to secure for themselves and their beautiful city a happy, prosperous, and even glorious future, or to sink so low that her resurrection will be both remote and precarious.

EX-PRESIDENT PIERCE.

We copy the following from the Portsmouth (N. H.) Chronicle:

Ex-President Pierce and lady are still boarding at the Rockingham House in this city, and it is reported that they are contemplating a permanent residence here. We are glad to hear that Mrs. Pierce's health is better than it has been for a long time; and this fact of course offers great inducements for them to abide with us.

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL PANICS.

In our issue of Saturday evening last we laid before the readers of the Union an official statement showing the aggregate values of the imports into and exports from the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857. Until we shall be enabled to present the full details of our commerce with foreign countries, which are annually transmitted to Congress with the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, we can only offer to our commercial readers such general remarks as may be suggested by a comparison of the results, to which alone we can at this time have access, with similar results of previous years, also derived from official sources. To this end we reproduce in tabular form the general statement referred to, accompanying it with similar statements from the year 1846, when the last general tariff came into operation—thus presenting, for greater facility of comparison and deduction, the general movements of our import and export trade during a period of twelve consecutive years. The facts which these figures represent will, we trust, tend to dispel the delusion by which the panic-makers in some of our northern cities seek to mislead the uninitiated in the mysteries of "fancy" financing, and startle the public mind into a state of groundless alarm; while the vast resources, the general prosperity, and real wealth of the country have at no former period exhibited a more healthy or a more gratifying condition. It is quite true that the figures for 1857 show a large increase in the exportation of the precious metals, and it is equally clear that, exclusive of specie and bullion, our general imports of foreign merchandise exceed in value our general exports, domestic and foreign; but it would be a fallacious deduction to infer from a difference of a few thousands of dollars one way or the other an actual balance of trade for or against us, as the case may be, in a vast aggregate of upwards of three hundred and sixty millions of dollars. The reasons why this is so are too obvious to all in any degree familiar with the ordinary symptoms which characterize a sound, vigorous, progressive commercial condition. In the physical economy slight derangements may occur, even in the healthiest and most robust constitutions, from exposure, over-exertion, or even from an undue indulgence of the animal appetites; but exercise, prudence, and a strict regard to the ordinary laws of hygiene will soon restore the natural tone, and bring back the system to its normal and healthy condition. So it is with the economical system of a nation so richly endowed as ours with all the elements of health and so pre-eminently blessed in all its vast and illimitable resources. The periodical "spasms" which, from time to time, diverge from Wall street may startle the nerves and quicken the pulse; but the effect is but momentary; composure is soon re-established, and our progress as a nation continues unchecked and onward, resting upon the solid basis of well-directed enterprise, protected by wholesome laws, and sustained by a vigorous constitution. Thus, the *vis medicatrix nature* is equally potent in the economical as in the physical system. In the one, as in the other, we have only to aid it in its efforts, and we shall be blessed with abundance of health.

In a country such as ours nothing of less dimensions than a national bank, or some other huge leviathan of equal capacity for mischief, can succeed in producing a real panic among the intelligent masses of our people; but such monsters are now no longer to be dreaded. We gaze upon them as we do upon the skeleton of the Mastodon in Barnum's Museum, while we congratulate ourselves that they are the creatures of a past age, whose race has become extinct, at least in our republican soil. The "Bulls" and the "Bears" of Wall street are alike incapable of unsettling the great business movements of the country, or of creating any serious alarm in the public mind. It is fortunate for our country's best interests that our commercial, as our political progress, depends no more upon the losses of stock gamblers than it does upon the hazard of the faro bank or the chance of the dice-box. But we proceed with our tables:

Comparative statement exhibiting the value of imports into the United States from foreign countries from 1846 to 1857, inclusive.

Years.	Specie and bullion.	Free goods.	Dutiable goods.	Total.
1846-47	\$7,777,722	\$20,990,007	\$96,924,058	\$121,691,797
1847-48	24,121,289	17,651,347	104,773,002	146,545,638
1848-49	6,360,224	16,356,379	132,287,325	154,998,928
1849-50	6,651,240	16,786,426	125,479,774	148,917,440
1850-51	4,628,792	18,081,590	155,427,936	178,138,318
1851-52	5,453,592	19,652,995	191,138,345	216,244,932
1852-53	5,505,044	24,187,890	183,252,508	212,945,442
1853-54	4,201,382	27,182,152	236,595,113	267,978,647
1854-55	6,958,184	26,327,637	271,276,560	304,562,381
1855-56	5,659,812	26,750,420	221,378,178	253,788,010
1856-57	4,207,632	22,741,047	257,681,236	284,630,915
1857-58	12,461,799	54,267,507	294,160,835	360,890,141

Comparative statement exhibiting the exports of the United States to foreign countries from 1846 to 1857, inclusive.

Years.	Foreign merchandise.	Domestic produce.	Specie and bullion.	Total.
1846-47	\$7,865,206	\$101,718,042	\$2,905,268	\$111,488,516
1847-48	6,166,754	150,574,844	1,907,024	158,648,622
1848-49	7,986,806	130,203,709	15,404,616	153,602,131
1849-50	8,641,091	131,710,081	15,404,616	155,755,820
1850-51	9,475,493	134,900,235	7,522,994	151,898,720
1851-52	10,295,121	137,620,138	29,472,752	177,388,011
1852-53	12,037,043	154,931,147	42,974,135	209,942,325
1853-54	13,026,213	189,869,162	27,486,875	230,452,250
1854-55	14,648,304	215,156,304	41,436,456	271,241,064
1855-56	16,158,368	192,751,135	56,247,343	265,156,846
1856-57	18,171,372	266,438,051	45,745,485	329,354,908
1857-58	14,905,509	278,906,713	69,136,922	362,949,144

The preceding tables show an increase, exclusive of specie and bullion, in 1857, of \$348,428,342, against \$310,432,310 in 1856, while our exports, exclusive of specie and bullion, for the former year amounted to \$293,812,222, and for the latter to \$281,219,423. The specie imported in 1857 amounted to \$11,975,100, and bullion to \$486,699—in all, \$12,461,799. Of this we re-exported in specie \$9,037,349, and in bullion \$21,221—making an aggregate of \$9,058,570, and leaving a clear cash balance in our favor of \$3,403,229, which, carried to the value of our exports exclusive of specie and bullion, leaves a residue of \$51,212,891 against us, to be paid in specie and bullion of domestic produce. To meet this amount we have exported \$28,777,372 in specie, and \$31,300,980 in bullion—making total amount of specie and bullion of domestic produce exported \$60,078,352, leaving a clear balance in our favor from the year's operations of \$8,865,461.

With results like this before our eyes, is it not silly in the extreme to preach and worry ourselves and others about excessive importations, over-trading, and the like nonsense, when the fact is that, though our imports of foreign merchandise this year exceed those of 1856 by \$37,996,032, the year closes with a balance of foreign indebtedness in our favor of nearly \$9,000,000 in hard cash?

The Dayton (Iowa) Democrat comes to us in mourning for the death of its late senior editor, James T. Hildreth, esq.

THE WASHINGTON UNION.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Trade of Vienna.—A correspondent at Vienna writes that trade is brisk, and goods to the amount of over 281,000 florins have been forwarded to the United States.

The Nebraska Wagon Road.—Intelligence has been received by the Interior Department from Colonel Stiles, superintendent of the Nebraska wagon-road expedition, dated Omaha City, September 1st, in which he states that he entertains no doubt of the completion of the road by the advent of winter if the weather continues favorable. To accomplish this great physical labor must be endured. It is expected that the entire road will be located by the 15th of October, with a large number of bridges built, and others in process of construction.

The East India and China Squadron.—The Secretary of the Navy received yesterday morning a letter from Commodore Foot, of the United States ship Portsmouth, stationed on the East India and China Squadron, dated at Sima, the 16th of June last.

Commander Foot reached Sima from Singapore on the 27th of May, after the shortest passage of the season, being only six days in sailing from port to port. As soon as circumstances permitted, he took all the officers who could be spared from duty, and proceeded with Mr. Consul Bradley, the bearer of the treaty between the United States and Siam, in the King's steamer to Bangkok, where accommodations were provided for them by the government. At the request of Mr. Bradley, Commander Foot was present at the interview, where the treaty was laid before the commissioners appointed by the King to receive it, and during the discussion which followed on the 6th article, which had been rejected by the Senate of the United States.

During his stay in Bangkok Commander Foot and his officers were presented to both Kings, and treated with great courtesy by the court and higher officers of the State. The second King having made many inquiries about the Plymouth, and having manifested considerable interest in the fleet, the commander invited him to pay the vessel a visit, which he did, although he informed the commander that no King of Siam had ever before been on board a man-of-war of any nation. The King went down from Bangkok, a distance of forty miles, on the 12th, with a suite of some twenty princes and nobles, and remained aboard during the greater part of the day. On the following morning he returned with most of his retinue, and remained until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Commander Foot exercised the battery at general quarters, fired a royal salute, got the ship under way, manned the yards, and, in short, extended to him all the honors due to the head of a State or nation. The King, on his return, having sent fire-wood, lamp-oil, dried fish, and fruit to the ship, for which the receipt of payment was positively declined, there was no alternative but to appropriate the articles to the use of the ship and the ship's company.

The treaties between the United States, England, France, and Siam are developing the agricultural resources of Siam through the channels of commerce. Rice and sugar are the staple products of the kingdom. The rude sugar-mills still in use cause the loss of one-third in the manufacture. Notwithstanding this, sugar is so abundant and so cheap (being three or four dollars per hundred for the best quality) that several vessels are loading for the United States, while the export of rice to China is at the present moment very great, there being in port six American, besides a number of vessels of different nationalities, loading for Hong-Kong. The culture of sugar, as well as most agricultural and mechanical labor in Siam, is performed by the Chinese, who here, as well as throughout the Indian archipelago and the coasts of the Malay peninsula, are to be found in great numbers, sustaining the habits of industry and thrift so general in their native country.

Mr. Bradley, the bearer of the treaty, has determined to furnish the State Department with the general statistics of American commerce in Siam since the British treaty took effect, April 6, 1856. It is due to the American missionaries (adds Commander Foot) to say that owing to their indirect influence, as you are aware, favorable treaties have been negotiated. Previously to their settlement in the country, the Siamese were almost exclusively in the hands of the British, who, by their retention in office in consequence of his personal popularity with the officers of the State and people. His knowledge of their language and business habits has exercised a strong influence upon the government and people than any foreigner, and to him we are chiefly indebted for the highly favorable impression which prevails in Siam towards Americans.

The treaty had not been ratified at the date of this letter.

Letter from Commander Dahlgren.—The Secretary of the Navy also received a letter from Commander J. A. Dahlgren, of the United States ordnance ship Plymouth, dated at Lisbon, August 18th. Commander Dahlgren had reached that place on the 18th, and expected to leave on the 19th.

The passage from the Cape of Virginia to the bay of Fayal was made in 17 1/2 days. The ship was in excellent trim, and the ship's crew were in a healthy condition.

During the stay of the Plymouth at Lisbon no British or French vessels had arrived. A Dutch rascal (the De Puyter) was at the port when the Plymouth arrived; and which time a steam frigate (the Wassenaar) and a slop-of-war (the Goeyter) had come in from Holland.

The De Puyter, which is a large vessel, had on board a number of midsaltpmen, who had passed the first stage of service in a smaller vessel. The Georgian brought the Prince of Orange, who as a naval officer was making a cruise. The ceremonial due to his rank was observed on board the Plymouth.

The Wassenaar is the latest Dutch screw frigate, but a few weeks in commission, and on a trial trip. On her gun-deck are mounted 30 guns, which are heavy thirty-pounds, except eight shell guns. On the forecastle is a heavy pivot-gun, which has appliances similar to those of the British navy. Her engine is nominally three hundred-horse power, but can be worked at five hundred-horse power; can use 35 tons of coal daily, which produces 55 revolutions, and a speed of eight knots in smooth water with no wind. The screw may be hoisted, and prevents the mounting of a pivot-gun shaft. It has trunk engines. Her chain messenger is taken around the capstan like one of hemp.

Commander Dahlgren was presented to the King of Portugal by the United States minister.

THE NASHVILLE UNION.

The Nashville Union reached us yesterday in a much enlarged and improved form. The editors state: "By this enlargement we have added fully one-third more to the space at our command. We have been driven to this in order to accommodate our advertising customers, and at the same time do justice to our subscribers, who look to this paper for the current news of the day. The advertising branch of our business has, during the past year, increased greatly beyond our most sanguine expectations, showing that business men appreciate the advantages which the heavy circulation of our paper presents."

The Nashville Union is one of the most influential and ably-conducted democratic journals in the country. The substantial evidence which it furnishes, in the number before us, of great pecuniary prosperity, will be hailed with the liveliest satisfaction wherever democratic principles flourish, and wherever the ability to defend, and explain those principles with power and efficiency is fully appreciated.

It is said that Hon. M. Fillmore, late President of the United States, is about to marry a lady of Montreal.

THE CANVASS IN GEORGIA.—CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN MESSRS. STEPHENS AND MILLER.

The Augusta Constitutionalist furnishes the following abstract of the reply of Hon. A. H. Stephens to the speech of Mr. Miller, which closed the discussion:

Mr. Stephens, rising to reply, begged that his auditors would remain perfectly quiet, as he had but a short time in which to address them, and desired that everything he said should be heard and understood. This request was not heeded, for almost every sentence he uttered was received with shouts of applause, and he had frequently to pause in the midst of a sentence, and wait until the cheering had abated before he could proceed. This reply of half an hour was one of Mr. Stephens' happiest efforts, and the feeling of disappointment was almost universal when the chairman of the meeting announced that his time had expired. The crowd, like Oliver Twist, evidently wanted "more."

Mr. Stephens began his reply by defending the administration from the charge that its history, thus far, had been unmarked, except by treachery to the South, and replying to Mr. Miller's question, what had it done? he said that it had left undone what a southern man could with propriety ask that national administration should do? What had Mr. Buchanan done, to recommend him to the confidence of southern men? He had appointed four southern men as members of his cabinet, and from the North he had selected three others who had been distinguished for their firm, unyielding, and unselfish devotion to the constitutional rights of the South. Two of them, Gen. Cass and Mr. Taney, had sacrificed themselves at home, and been defeated by republicans, because they stood by the South in her hour of need, and Mr. ...

... broad nationality, and his inclination to protect the northern defenders of southern rights, by calling them to high office and selecting them as his cabinet advisers. What had he done? He had, in his inaugural address, done more than any man who had preceded him in the presidential chair, by giving in his administration, in advance of its delivery to the principles of the *Dred Scott* decision of the Supreme Court, and proclaiming, as a rule for the conduct of his administration, the true doctrine of southern equality in the Territories of the Union. What had he done? He had given us the whole government, and the organization of the Territory of Kansas, had recognized the laws of that Territory, against which the black-republicans had revolted; and had placed southern men in every office of honor or influence in the Territory, and had placed no man in office in Kansas, or anywhere else, who was not pledged to sustain the Kansas-Nebraska organization of the Territory of Kansas, which secured to the South her rights under the constitution. What had he done? What had he not done which a southern man with any propriety could ask that a President of the United States should do?

Mr. Stephens then denied emphatically that he had denounced members of the American order as "murderers." He said that he had never made any such statement, and that he had never in any public speech said anything of the members of the American party which was designed to wound their feelings, or which ought to have wounded their feelings. His best and truest friends were members of that order. No feeling with him was stronger than that of gratitude, and he was proud to have the support of Congress, which secured to the South her rights under the constitution. What had he done? What had he not done which a southern man with any propriety could ask that a President of the United States should do? He had denounced members of the American order as "murderers." 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